

Labourers' Home Enfranchisement (Ireland) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Clauses.

1. Ascertainment of price.
2. Offer of option to purchase, and manner of acceptance.
3. Completion of purchase and issue of vesting order.
4. Registration free of cost.
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11. Short title.
12. Commencement of Act.



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B I L L

TO

Transfer to the Irish Land Commission the debts and A.D. 1910.
 powers of collection of District Councils in Ireland
 under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, and to enable
 labourers to purchase their cottages and plots.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

5 1. The Local Government Board for Ireland shall have an account taken, *as from the thirtieth day of September nineteen hundred and ten*, of all sums for which district councils in Ireland shall then stand liable in respect of labourers' cottages and plots provided under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts and at that time occupied bona fide in accordance with the Acts; and, after making all deductions to which the district council would be entitled under the Labourers Acts in respect of the same, ascertain the net balance due in respect of each cottage and plot and the annuity and half-yearly instalments by which that sum would be repayable 10 if it were an advancee under the Land Purchase Acts, and furnish each district council with a schedule of all such cases in its district, together with suitable forms of agreement to purchase, to be signed by such of the occupants as may desire to become purchasers of their cottages and plots at that price and subject to the provisions 15 of the Land Purchase Acts and of this Act.

Ascertainment of price.

2. It shall be the duty of each district council, immediately on receipt of the schedule and forms, to inform each scheduled occupant of a cottage and plot of the sum for which they can be purchased, the annuity and half-yearly instalments by which

Offer of option to purchase, and manner of acceptance.

[Bill 18.]

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A.D. 1910. that sum can be repaid, and of the occupant's right, at his option, either to become a purchaser at that price or to continue a tenant to the council, in each case of consent to get the purchase agreement duly signed by the occupant, and to return all agreements so executed to the Local Government Board within one month from the date of the receipt by the council of the schedule and forms.

Completion
of purchase
and issue of
vesting
order.

3. On receipt and verification of the purchase agreements thus executed, the Local Government Board shall forward all of them that are in order, with a schedule of them, to the Irish Land Commission, who shall forthwith issue a vesting order to every such occupant as a purchaser subject to the specified price to be paid by annuities as advances are or may be payable under the Land Purchase Acts for the time being.

Registration
free of cost.

54 & 55 Vict.
c. 66.

4. Contemporaneously with the issue of each vesting order, 15 the Land Commission shall send a copy of that order to the registering authority under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891; and the title so acquired by the occupying purchaser shall be registered forthwith free of cost and free of stamp duty.

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Transfer of
liability and
commence-
ment of new
relations.

5. *Thereupon all financial liability in respect of the cottage and plot so dealt with shall depart from the council and attach to the Irish Land Commission, and the council's debt shall be reduced to that extent; the relations between the council and the occupant in respect of the same shall cease, and the occupant shall be a 25 purchaser at the specified price payable by annuities or by larger sums as in the case of other purchasers under the Land Purchase Acts, subject to the provisions of those Acts and of this Act.*

Discre-
tionary post-
ponement
of com-
mencement
of payments.

6. The Irish Land Commission may, on the application of the purchaser, if satisfied with his personal or other security, 30 postpone the commencement of the payment of annuities for twelve months after the completion of the purchase and until the next succeeding gale day after the expiration of those twelve months, and then and on each subsequent gale day demand only a half-yearly instalment.

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Cottage and
plot not to
be separated.

7. A labourer's cottage and the plot appurtenant thereto so dealt with shall continue inseparable as regards occupation and ownership, except with the permission of the Irish Land Commission previously obtained.

8. A labourer's cottage and the plot appurtenant thereto so dealt with shall be inalienable jointly or separably except with the consent of the Irish Land Commission and to an agricultural labourer as defined by the Labourers Acts. Any attempt to alienate a cottage and plot, or either of them, without that consent or to any other person shall operate only to divest the occupant of all title to the cottage and plot and of all claim in respect of them or either of them; and except for that purpose shall be null, void, and inadmissible as evidence in any civil proceedings. On the 10 Irish Land Commission declaring such an occupying purchaser divested of his title by an attempt to alienate in contravention of this section, the cottage and plot shall be deemed for all purposes to be in the possession and occupation of the Irish Land Commission, free from all incumbrances, rights, equities, and liabilities 15 of the dispossessed occupant; and the Land Commission shall take such steps as they think fit for the preservation of the property and the disposal of it to an agricultural labourer subject to the balance of the purchase money remaining due and to such other conditions as they may impose upon a new occupant in similar circumstances 20 under the Land Purchase Acts.

A.D. 1910.
Provision
against in-
alienation.

9. The words from "that" to "and," inclusive, in the proviso to section nineteen of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906, shall not apply to purchasers under this Act.

Removal of
restriction
imposed by
§ 19, 7 &c. 37.
s. 19.

10. The Local Government Board for Ireland shall have a similar account taken as from the thirtieth day of September in each year, and the same schedule and forms shall be supplied and the same proceedings taken in respect of cottages and plots completed and occupied bona fide at that date in each year; and the occupants shall be given the option of becoming purchasers 30 at the prices duly ascertained in their respective cases; and in the cases of all who consent the purchases shall be completed and the same consequences shall follow in all respects as in the cases dealt with this year.

Similar
option to be
offered in
subsequent
years.

11. This Act may be cited as the Labourers' Home Short title. 35 Enfranchisement (Ireland) Act, 1910.

12. This Act shall come into operation on the passing Commencement of Act thereof.

Labourers' Home Enfranchisement (Ireland).

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To transfer to the Irish Land Commission the debts and powers of collection of District Councils in Ireland under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, and to enable labourers to purchase their cottages and plots.

Presented by Mr. Ginnell.

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[Bill 18.]